

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 92-127 and 130-135, as amended, remain pending for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 51-58, 60-68, 70-79, and 128 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter recited therein in one or more continuing applications. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the allowability of claims 92-127 and 130-135 on page 4 of the most recent Office Action.

Claims 51-58, 60-68, 70-79, and 128 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,973,792 to Lewis *et al.* ("Lewis") for the reasons set forth on pages 3-4 of the Office Action. As Applicants have cancelled these claims by virtue of the instant Amendment, this rejection has been rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

Having demonstrated that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the invention as claimed, and all other formal issues having now been fully addressed, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request early and favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated, since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1712 (Docket #: 1999B024/5).

Respectfully submitted,

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